

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An image storing apparatus, comprising:
an image capturing device ~~which captures~~ configured to capture an image;
an image storing device ~~which stores~~ configured to store the image captured by the image capturing device;
a customer information storing device ~~which stores~~ configured to store customer information;
a receiving device ~~which receives~~ configured to receive image selection information indicating that the stored image stored in the image storing device is selected to remain stored and not removed from the image storing device; ~~and~~
an image management information storing device ~~which stores~~ configured to store image management information associating the image stored in the image storing device and indicated by the image selection information received by the receiving device with the customer information stored in the customer information storing device; and
an image deleting device configured to delete the stored image in the image storing device when the image selection information is not received.
2. (Original) The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
the receiving device receives image attribute information indicating an attribute of the image as one piece of the image selection information; and

the image management information storing device stores the image stored in the image storing device and indicated by the image attribute information received by the receiving device by associating the image with the image attribute information and the customer information stored in the customer information storing device.

3. (Original) The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image storing device and the image management information storing device are the same database.

4. (Currently Amended) The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an image storing period measuring device ~~which measures~~ configured to measure a storing period of the image; and

a notifying device ~~which~~ configured to, when the storing period measured by the image storing period measuring device passes a predetermined period, ~~notifies~~ notify the customer of the image so as to prompt input of one of the image selection information and image attribute information.

5. (Currently Amended) The image storing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the receiving device receives none of the image selection information and the image attribute information within the predetermined period from the notification, the image ~~storing~~ deleting device deletes the image which is a subject of the notification.

6. (Currently Amended) The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a usage charge calculating device ~~which calculates~~ configured to calculate a usage charge according to a using area and a storing period of the image stored in the image storing device; and

a usage charge notifying device ~~which notifies~~ configured to notify the customer of the usage charge calculated by the usage charge calculating device.

7. (Original) The image storing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, in the case where a charge is not paid within a predetermined period after the notice of the usage charge is given by the usage charge notifying device, at least one of the image storing device and the image management information storing device prohibits the customer in arrears from getting access.

8. (Currently Amended) The image storing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a point calculating device ~~which calculates~~ configured to calculate points according to a storing area and a storing period of the image stored in the image storing device; and

a point storing device ~~which~~ configured to accumulatively ~~stores~~ store the points calculated by the point calculating device for each customer.

9. (Currently Amended) The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a receiving device ~~which receives~~ configured to receive customer reading authorization information indicating that the customer has authorized the customer information to be read; and

a sending device ~~which reads~~ configured to read the customer information corresponding to the customer reading authorization information received by the receiving device from the customer information storing device and ~~sends~~ send the read customer information to another customer.

10. (Currently Amended) The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a receiving device ~~which receives~~ configured to receive image usage authorization information authorizing usage of the image,

wherein at least one of the image storing device and the image management information storing device authorizes a third party to access the image indicated by the image usage authorization information received by the receiving device and prohibits the third party from accessing any information other than the image indicated by the received image usage authorization information.

11. (Currently Amended) The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a classified information storing device ~~which stores~~ configured to store classified information having classified the images stored in the image storing device according to at least one of the customer information and the image attribute information; and

a receiving device ~~which receives~~ configured to receive classified reading authorization information authorizing the images belonging to a predetermined classification to be read,

wherein at least one of the image storing device and the classified information storing device authorizes a third party to access the image belonging to the classification indicated by the classified reading authorization information received by the receiving device and prohibits the third party from accessing any image belonging to any classification other than the one indicated by the received classified reading authorization information.

12. (Currently Amended) The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a date timing device ~~which times~~ configured to time the current date;

an event analyzing device ~~which analyzes~~ configured to analyze an event related to the customer based on at least one of the customer information and the image attribute information stored in the image management information storing device; and

an event notifying device ~~which~~ configured to, when the current date timed by the date timing device is within a predetermined period before the date of the event analyzed by the event analyzing device, ~~gives~~ give notice of the event analyzed by the event analyzing device.

13. (Currently Amended) The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a receiving device ~~which receives~~ configured to image output destination information identifying the image, an output location of the image and a record medium for the image; and

a sending device ~~which reads~~ configured to read the image identified by the image output destination information from the image storing device based on the image output destination information received by the receiving device, and ~~sends~~ send the read image to a record medium recording apparatus placed in an output location identified by the image output destination information and recording data on the record medium indicated by the image output destination information.

14. (Currently Amended) An image storing system, comprising:

a plurality of terminal units, each of which comprises:

an image selecting device ~~which selects~~ configured to select the image to be stored; and

a sending device ~~which sends~~ configured to send the image selected by the image selecting device and image selection information indicating the image; and

an image storing apparatus comprising:

an image capturing device ~~which captures~~ to capture the image sent from the terminal unit;

an image storing device ~~which stores~~ configured to store the image captured by the image capturing device;

a customer information storing device ~~which stores~~ configured to store customer information;

a receiving device ~~which receives~~ configured to receive image selection information sent from the terminal unit indicating that the image stored in the image storing device is selected to remain stored and not removed from the image storing device; ~~and~~

an image management information storing device ~~which stores~~ configured to store image management information associating the image stored in the image storing device and indicated by image selection information received by the receiving device with the customer information stored in the customer information storing device; and

an image deleting device configured to delete the stored image in the image storing device when the image selection information is not received.

15. (Original) The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:

the sending device of the terminal unit sends image attribute information indicating an attribute of the image as one piece of the image selection information;

the receiving device of the image storing apparatus receives the image attribute information from the terminal unit as one piece of the image selection information; and

the image management information storing device of the image storing apparatus stores the image stored in the image storing device and indicated by the image attribute information

received by the receiving device by associating the image with the image attribute information and the customer information stored in the customer information storing device.

16. (Currently Amended) The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein the image storing apparatus further comprises:

an image storing period measuring device ~~which measures~~ configured to measure a storing period of the image; and

a notifying device ~~which~~ configured to, when the storing period measured by the image storing period measuring device passes a predetermined period, ~~notifying~~ notify the customer of the image so as to prompt input of at least one of the image selection information and image attribute information.

17. (Currently Amended) The image storing system according to claim 16, wherein when the receiving device receives none of the image selection information and the image attribute information within the predetermined period from the notification, the image ~~storing~~ deleting device ~~of the image storing apparatus~~ deletes the image which is a subject of the notification.

18. (Currently Amended) The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein the image storing apparatus further comprises:

a calculating device ~~which calculates~~ configured to calculate a usage charge according to a storing area and a storing period of the image stored in the image storing device; and

a notifying device ~~which notifies~~ configured to notify the customer of the usage charge calculated by the calculating device.

19. (Original) The image storing system according to claim 18, wherein, in the case where a charge is not paid within a predetermined period after the notice is given by the usage charge notifying device, at least one of the image storing device and the image management information storing device of the image storing apparatus prohibits the customer in arrears from getting access.

20. (Currently Amended) The image storing system according to claim 19, wherein the image storing apparatus further comprises:

a point calculating device ~~which calculates~~ configured to calculate points according to a storing area and a storing period of the image stored in the image storing device; and

a point storing device ~~which~~ configured to accumulatively ~~stores~~ store the points calculated by the point calculating device for each customer.

21. (Currently Amended) The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:
the terminal unit further comprises:

an input device ~~which inputs~~ configured to input customer reading authorization information indicating that the customer has authorized the customer information to be read; and

a sending device ~~which sends~~ configured to send the customer reading authorization information inputted by the input device; and
the image storing apparatus further comprises:

a receiving device ~~which receives~~ configured to receive the customer reading authorization information sent from the terminal unit; and

a sending device ~~which reads~~ configured to read customer information indicated by the customer reading authorization information received by the receiving device and ~~sends~~ send the read customer information to another customer.

22. (Currently Amended) The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:
the terminal unit further comprises:

an input device ~~which inputs~~ configured to input image usage authorization information indicating usage authorization of the image; and

a sending device ~~which sends~~ configured to send the image usage authorization information inputted by the input device; and

the image storing apparatus further comprises a receiving device ~~which receives~~ configured to receive the image usage authorization information sent from the terminal unit; and

at least one of the image storing device and the image management information storing device authorizes a third party to access the image indicated by the image usage authorization information received by the receiving device and prohibits the third party from accessing any image other than the image indicated by the image usage authorization information.

23. (Currently Amended) The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:
the image storing apparatus further comprises:

a classified information storing device ~~which stores~~ configured to store
classified information having classified the images stored in the image storing
device according to at least one of the customer information and the image
attribute information; and

a receiving device ~~which receives~~ configured to receive classified reading
authorization information authorizing the images belonging to a predetermined
classification to be read; and

at least one of the image storing device and the classified information storing device
authorizes a third party to access the image belonging to the classification indicated by the
classified reading authorization information received by the receiving device and prohibits the
third party from accessing any image belonging to any classification other than the one indicated
by the received classified reading authorization information.

24. (Currently Amended) The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:
the image storing apparatus further comprises:

a date timing device ~~which times~~ configured to time the current date;

an event analyzing device ~~which analyzes~~ configured to analyze an event
related to the customer based on at least one of the customer information and the

image attribute information stored in the image management information storing device; and

an event notifying device ~~which~~ configured to, when the current date timed by the date timing device is within a predetermined period before the date of the event analyzed by the event analyzing device, ~~gives notice~~ give notice of the event analyzed by the event analyzing device.

25. (Currently Amended) The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:
the terminal unit further comprises:

an input device ~~which inputs~~ configured to input image output destination information identifying the image, an output location of the image and a record medium for the image; and

a sending device ~~which sends~~ configured to send the image output destination information inputted by the input device; and

the image storing apparatus further comprises:

a receiving device ~~which receives~~ configured to receive the image output destination information sent from the terminal unit; and

an image sending device ~~which reads~~ configured to read the image identified by the image output destination information from the image storing device based on the image output destination information received by the receiving device, ~~and sends~~ send the read image to a record medium recording apparatus placed in an output location identified by the image output destination

information and ~~recording~~ record data on the record medium indicated by the image output destination information.

26. (Currently Amended) The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:
the terminal unit further comprises:

an image reading device ~~which reads~~ configured to read the image recorded on a film;

an image processing device ~~which performs~~ configured to perform predetermined image processing to the image read by the image reading device;
and

a printing device ~~which prints~~ configured to print the image image-processed by the image processing device; and

the image sending device sends the image image-processed by the image processing device to the image storing apparatus.

27. (Currently Amended) A terminal unit, comprising:

an image selecting device ~~which selects~~ configured to select an image to be stored; and

a sending device ~~which sends~~ configured to send the image selected by the image selecting device ~~and~~ to a storage device, separate from the terminal unit, together with image selection information indicating that the stored image is selected to remain stored and not removed from the storage device.

28. (Original) The terminal unit according to claim 27, wherein the sending device sends image attribute information indicating an attribute of the image as one piece of the image selection information.

29. (Currently Amended) The terminal unit according to claim 27, further comprising:
an input device ~~which inputs~~ configured to input customer reading authorization information indicating that the customer has authorized the customer information to be read; and
a sending device ~~which sends~~ configured to send the customer reading authorization information inputted by the input device.

30. (Currently Amended) The terminal unit according to claim 27, further comprising:
an input device ~~which inputs~~ configured to input image usage authorization information indicating usage authorization of the image; and
a sending device ~~which sends~~ configured to send the image usage authorization information inputted by the input device.

31. (Currently Amended) The terminal unit according to claim 27, further comprising:
an input device ~~which inputs~~ configured to input output destination information identifying the image, an output location of the image and a record medium for the image; and
a sending device ~~which sends~~ configured to send the image output destination information inputted by the input device.

32. (Currently Amended) The terminal unit according to claim 27, further comprising:
an image reading device ~~which reads~~ configured to read the image recorded on a film;
an image processing device ~~which performs~~ configured to perform predetermined image processing to the image read by the image reading device; and
a printing device ~~which prints~~ configured to print the image image-processed by the image processing device,
wherein the sending ~~device sends~~ configured to send the image image-processed by the image processing device.

33. (Currently Amended) An image storing apparatus having a recording device which records an image uploaded from a customer side, the apparatus comprising:
a receiving device ~~which receives~~ configured to receive the image from a communication apparatus on the customer side;
a recording device ~~which records~~ configured to record the received image;
a determining device ~~which determines~~ configured to determine whether or not to move the image recorded on the recording device to a record medium by comparing at least one of the capacity, quantity, recording period and a current date thereof recorded on the recording device to corresponding at least one of predetermined thresholds; and
a moving device ~~which moves~~ configured to move the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium based on results of the determination.

34. (Original) The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein:

the receiving device receives from a customer-side communication apparatus image movement acknowledgement information for acknowledging the images to be moved from the recording device to the record medium; and

the moving device moves the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium based on the image movement acknowledgement information received from the customer-side communication apparatus and the determination results.

35. (Original) The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein:

the receiving device receives from the customer-side communication apparatus payment information for paying a purchase price of the record medium having recorded the moved image; and

the moving device moves the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium based on the payment information received from the customer-side communication apparatus and the determination results.

36. (Original) The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein:

the receiving device receives from the customer-side communication apparatus record medium type information for identifying the type of the record medium; and

the moving device moves the image recorded on the recording device to the identified record medium based on the record medium type information received from the customer-side communication apparatus.

37. (Currently Amended) The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising a printing device ~~which prints~~ configured to print at least one of a name of the image and a reduced image recorded on the record medium on at least one of a list and a label to be affixed to the record medium.

38. (Currently Amended) The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising a delivery device ~~which delivers~~ configured to deliver the record medium to the customer side.

39. (Previously Presented) The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the recording device does not record an image that is a duplicate of an image that is already recorded on the recording device.

40. (Previously Presented) The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the moving device does not move an image that is a duplicate of an image that has already been moved to the record medium.

41. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising a recording medium having encoded thereon a computer readable program executable by an information processing device of an image storing apparatus to carry out the operations of:

receiving an image at a receiving device of the image storing apparatus from a customer-side communication apparatus;

determining, by a determining device of the image storing apparatus, whether or not to move the image recorded on the recording device to a record medium by comparing at least one of capacity, quantity, a recording period and a current date thereof recorded on the recording device to at least one of corresponding predetermined thresholds; and

moving, by a moving device of the image storing apparatus, the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium based on results of the determination.

42. (Previously Presented) An image storing method comprising:

receiving the image from a customer-side communication apparatus;

recording the received image on a recording device;

determining whether or not to move the image recorded on the recording device to a record medium by comparing at least one of capacity, quantity, recording period and a current date thereof recorded on the recording device to corresponding one of predetermined thresholds; and

moving the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium based on results of the determination.